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NEW POTATO DEHYDRATION PLANT IN IRELAND

The Irish Sugar Company opened its new potato dehydration plant at Tuam on April 24, 1962.

The plant is designed to produce the "flaked potatoes", which will be sold largely for export, but will also be available for the Irish market. The Irish cannot sell the flaked potatoes in the United Kingdom without special permission, as other interests have obtained exclusive rights for the U.K. The Sugar Company also will manufacture dehydrated potato cubes to be sold where licenses prohibit the sale of flakes. It is estimated that it will take about 18,500 tons of potatoes to supply the plant for a 9-month period.

IRISH TOBACCO
IMPORTS DOWN

Ireland's imports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1961 totaled 14.1 million pounds--12 percent below the 1960 level of 16 million. Smaller takings from the United States and the Rhodesias-Nyasaland accounted for the decline.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Ireland, imports by country of origin, 1959-61

Country of origin	1959	1960	1961
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States	10,715	15,247	13,373
Rhodesias-Nyasaland	247	593	475
Canada	69	47	48
India	67	94	119
Others	15	11	85
Total	11,113	15,992	14,100

Imports of U.S. leaf, at 13.3 million pounds, were 1.9 million pounds smaller than the 15.2 million in 1960. Takings from the Rhodesias-Nyasaland totaled 475,000 pounds, compared with 593,000 pounds for the previous year. Imports from India were slightly larger than in 1960 and there were 76,000 pounds reported from the Republic of South Africa.

VENEZUELAN CIGARETTE OUTPUT
CONTINUES TO RISE

Cigarette output in Venezuela during the first 8 months of 1961 totaled 4.9 billion pieces--up 8.8 percent from the 4.5 billion produced in January-August 1960. Production of light type cigarettes continued to rise while dark type cigarettes turned downward during the first 8 months of 1961 after showing a continuous gain since 1953. If the rate of increase continued for the remaining 4 months of 1961, total output approached 7.4 billion pieces for calendar year 1961, compared with 6.8 billion in 1960.

Cigarette sales, reportedly, totaled 7.3 billion pieces during 1961, compared with the 6.7 billion sold in 1960. For all practical purposes, domestic production accounted for all sales because imported cigarettes were banned on April 1, 1960. Since August 1961, 3 new brands of filter-tipped cigarettes have been placed on the market. The new brands, Lido and Belmont, retail for the equivalent of about 22 U.S. cents per pack and Philip Morris brings 44 cents.

PHILIPPINE CIGAR EXPORTS LARGEST SINCE 1940

The Philippines exports of cigars during 1961 totaled 11.3 million pieces, compared with 7 million in 1960. Exports during 1961 were the largest since 1940.

The United States continues to be the principal export market for Philippine cigars. Shipments to the United States totaled 8.6 million pieces, compared with 4.8 million in 1960. Other important foreign destinations for Filipino cigars included the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, France, Malaya, and Thailand.

Government officials, reportedly, are optimistic that shipments to the United States this year will increase substantially. Present production capacity is being increased by the installation of 40 cigar machines which turn out 6,000 pieces per machine daily.

BRAZIL'S LEAF TOBACCO EXPORTS NEAR RECORD

Brazil's exports of leaf tobacco during 1961 totaled 106.3 million pounds, exceeded only by 1946 shipments of 116.6 million. Exports in 1961 were 37.4 million pounds larger than in 1960 and 42.7 million above the 1955-59 annual average of 63.6 million.

TOBACCO LEAF: Brazil, exports by country of destination, 1959-61

Country of destination	1959	1960	1961
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Spain	12,044	19,506	25,479
Netherlands	15,004	13,123	17,344
Germany, West	6,912	6,080	16,572
France	4,966	1,251	10,357
Switzerland	2,452	3,038	6,202
Denmark	5,444	5,028	6,113
Germany, East	1,001	6,512	4,718
Uruguay	2,658	3,921	4,420
Algeria	2,355	2,629	4,306
Belgium	1,637	2,571	3,391
Morocco	751	570	2,740
United States	3	316	933
Others	6,612	4,387	3,707
Total	61,839	68,932	106,282

Shipments to Spain, the principal export market, were 6 million pounds above the 1960 level of 19.5 million. Exports to West Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland were 10.5, 9.1, 4.2, and 3.2 million pounds larger, respectively, than for the previous year. Gains to these five destinations accounted for 88 percent of the total increase in shipments over a year ago. Other countries increasing their takings of Brazilian leaf included Denmark, Uruguay, Algeria, Belgium, Morocco, Tunisia, Malagasy Republic, and the United States. Shipments to East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, and Argentina were below those for the preceding year.

Average export prices per pound, for leaf exports to major destinations in 1961, in terms of U.S. equivalents were: Spain 23 cents; the Netherlands 26 cents; West Germany 24 cents; France 20 cents; Switzerland 27 cents; Denmark 31 cents; and Algeria 23 cents.

AMERICAN-BLENDED CIGARETTES CONTINUE TO RISE IN EGYPT

Output of American-blended cigarettes in Egypt continues to rise. Production of this type of cigarette during 1961 accounted for 64.8 percent of all tobacco manufactures, compared with 60.3 percent in 1960 and 42 percent in 1957. American-blended cigarettes have displaced to a considerable extent the straight Virginia and oriental types.

Production of "roll-your-own" (oriental) has increased its percentage share of the market by about 2 percent since 1957. The combined output of pipe tobacco and cigars has declined, while chewing tobacco has remained relatively stable at about 1 percent.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: Egypt, output by kinds, in terms of percentages, 1957-61

Product	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cigarettes:					
American-blended	42.0	51.2	54.2	60.3	64.8
Oriental	18.2	11.8	6.2	7.8	5.7
Straight Virginia	12.2	8.3	10.3	3.6	2.2
Other:					
Roll-your-own (oriental)	15.6	16.1	16.8	17.4	17.4
Pipe tobacco and small cigars 1/	11.2	11.6	11.6	9.9	8.9
Chewing tobacco	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Includes tobacco for bubble pipes.

AUSTRALIAN MEAT SHIPMENTS
TO THE UNITED STATES

Two ships left Australia the middle of April with 7,376,320 pounds of beef and 985,600 pounds of mutton for the United States.

Ship	Sailing date	Destination 1/	Arrival date	Cargo	Quantity
					Pounds
Lake Eyre......	April 13	New Orleans	May 4	Beef	692,160
		Tampa	" 5	"	607,040
		"	" "	Mutton	313,600
		Philadelphia	" 10	Beef	752,640
		"	" "	Mutton	89,600
		New York	" 11	Beef	3,505,600
		" "	" "	Mutton	425,600
		Boston	" 17	Beef	526,400
Sierra.........	April 16	Los Angeles	" 4	"	497,280
		" "	" "	Mutton	100,800
		San Francisco	" 9	Beef	396,480
		" "	" "	Mutton	56,000
		Seattle	" 17	Beef	293,440
		Portland	" 20	"	105,280

1/ Cities listed indicate location of purchaser and usually the port of arrival and general market area, but the meat may be diverted to other areas for sale.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK
NEAR COLOMBIA-PANAMA BORDER

An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, type O, has occurred near Quibdo, Colombia which is near the Panamanian border. Central American countries are concerned about the situation.

The Panamanian Ministry of Agriculture is disposing of all cattle within 20 miles of the Colombian border to provide a buffer zone as a deterrent to introduction of the disease. Around 1,000 head are being exported to Peru at sacrifice prices with the government subsidizing the owners for their fair value. The number of veterinary inspectors has been increased to inspect cattle near the Colombian border. The Panamanians are concerned about the possible spread of the disease across the border by wild pigs and deer.

Foot-and-mouth disease is not found in Central America or on the North American continent. The last known outbreak in this area occurred in Canada in 1952. Extensive outbreaks occurred in Mexico in 1946 but the disease was finally eradicated after a long and costly joint U.S.-Mexican effort.

AUSTRALIA BANS IMPORTS OF HIDES FROM FOOT-AND-MOUTH AREAS

The Australian Health Ministry announced that a proclamation has been issued restricting the entry into Australia of cattle hides from countries affected with foot-and-mouth disease.

The effect of the proclamation will be the complete exclusion of hides from South America and Western Europe. Argentina has been an important supplier in recent years.

Cattle hides may now be imported only from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, the United States, Papua and New Guinea, and the Pacific Islands, such as Fiji and others free of foot-and-mouth disease. Hides imported from these countries must now be accompanied by a certificate from a government veterinary surgeon in the country of origin certifying that the hides were derived from cattle slaughtered for human consumption in that country.

Western Europe formerly supplied most of the calf and kip skins which will now have to be imported from elsewhere. The most probable sources are the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and the United States.

U.S. MEAT IMPORTS FROM EL SALVADOR NOT PERMITTED

The United States does not import beef or other meats from El Salvador because that country's inspection system has not been approved by U.S. authorities.

Regular shipments of beef are arriving from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Imports from Panama are permitted but that country has had little meat for export in recent years.

The article "New Miami-Guatemala Meat Ferrying Service Succeeding," (Foreign Crops and Markets, April 30, 1962), indicated that El Salvador was shipping meat to the United States which is not the case.

COLOMBIA EXPORTS CATTLE TO CARIBBEAN AREA

Colombia recently exported 1,000 head of commercial steers to the British, Dutch, and French Antilles and completed the first export quota since removal of the export ban in 1961. All shipments were made through the port of Santa Marta.

The Colombian Cattlemen's Confederation announced that it will request the Ministry of Agriculture to issue a license to export 1,500 steers to the same destinations.

U.S. IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS RISE IN MARCH

U.S. imports of red meats, variety meats, dutiable wool, hides and skins, and live cattle were higher in January-March than for the same months of 1961.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS: U.S. imports of selected items, March 1961 and 1962 January-March 1961 and 1962, with percentage change

(Product weight basis)

Commodity	March 1961	March 1962	March Percent change	January-March 1961	January-March 1962	January-March Percent change
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Red meats:						
Fresh, frozen, canned, and cured beef and veal	42,604	97,378	+129	108,170	211,557	+96
Other meats 1/	2,085	2,085	---	6,196	6,153	-1
Total beef and veal	44,689	99,463	+123	114,366	217,710	+90
Pork	17,552	19,178	+9	44,815	51,160	+14
Mutton	4,888	12,820	+162	9,686	24,923	+157
Lamb	1,623	1,560	-4	3,866	3,428	-11
Total red meat	68,752	133,021	+193	172,733	297,221	+72
Variety meats	163	193	+18	438	615	+40
Wool (clean basis):						
Dutiable	9,878	13,366	+35	23,286	37,290	+60
Duty free	14,091	11,674	-17	40,531	32,834	-20
Total wool	23,969	25,040	+4	63,817	70,124	+10
Hides & skins (1,000 pieces):						
Cattle and buffalo	46	193	+320	124	411	+231
Calf	20	36	+80	56	110	+96
Kip	30	61	+103	134	177	+32
Sheep and lamb	5,127	5,853	+14	7,706	11,306	+47
Goat and kid	1,338	1,463	+9	3,433	4,173	+22
Horse	15	34	+127	60	124	+107
Pig	24	101	+320	115	412	+258
Live cattle (number) 2/	68,203	97,970	+44	224,557	284,683	+27

1/ Other meat, canned, prepared, or preserved. 2/ Includes cattle for breeding.

U.S. Department of Commerce.

Red meat imports rose 72 percent. Imports of beef and veal were 90 percent higher, pork imports rose 14 percent and mutton imports were 157 percent larger. Inshipments of lamb dropped 11 percent.

Variety meat imports in January-March were 40 percent larger than in January-March of the previous year.

Imports of dutiable wool were 60 percent larger and duty-free (carpet wool) imports dropped 20 percent.

Imports of hides and skins were higher for all classes. Pigskin imports were 258 percent larger; cattle and buffalo hides increased 231 percent; horse hides 107 percent; calf skins 96 percent; sheep and lamb skins 47 percent; kip skins 32 percent, and goat and kid skins 22 percent.

Live cattle imports in January-March increased 27 percent from the levels of the first 3 months of last year. Imports of feeder cattle from Mexico continue at high levels, attracted by relatively high U.S. prices for this type of cattle.

VENEZUELA TAKES TALLOW OFF PREFERENTIAL IMPORT LIST

The Venezuelan Government has taken tallow off its preferential import list but this action is not expected to have much effect on tallow imports from the United States.

At present, tallow imports must be paid for at the free rate of about 4.57 bolivars to the U.S. dollar. Prior to April 2, 1962, when tallow was on the preferential list, the rate was 3.35 bolivars to the dollar.

The change in exchange rate has increased the landed cost of tallow by around 36 percent. However, as there is no economical substitute available for soap making, the increased cost of raw material will be accepted and passed to the consumer in the form of higher soap prices. Prices for domestic tallow are only slightly higher than for imported tallow. Copra production has been declining and there is a strong demand for coconut oil in shortening. Domestic soap production and consumption are expected to continue to rise.

U.S. exports of inedible tallow and greases to Venezuela rose from 7.6 million pounds in 1960 to 12.2 million in 1961.

Fresh and frozen pork, cattle for breeding and certain types of hides and skins remain on the preferential import list and exchange for imports of these items is obtained at 3.35 bolivars to the dollar.

CANADIAN MEAT CONSUMPTION REACHES NEW RECORD

Canadian consumption of meats and poultry per person continued to rise in 1961 and reached the highest level since at least 1926.

Per capita consumption of red meats, variety meats, and poultry in 1961 averaged 174.5 pounds, compared with 174.3 pounds a year earlier, and an average of 154.9 pounds for 1951-55.

Supplies per person in 1961 included 138.5 pounds of carcass and canned meats, 4.6 pounds of variety meats, and 31.4 pounds of poultry. Since 1951-55 use of red meats has increased almost 10 pounds or from 128.8 pounds to 138.5 pounds. The increase for poultry in the same period was slightly more than 10 pounds--from 21.1 to 31.4.

MEAT: Canada, per capita consumption, average 1951-55, and annual 1957-61

(Carcass weight basis)

Item	Average 1951-55	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Beef	61.6	74.8	64.8	64.4	69.2	68.8
Veal	7.9	9.0	8.8	7.5	7.6	8.2
Mutton and lamb	2.3	2.7	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.7
Pork	51.6	46.2	51.8	58.4	55.2	53.5
Canned meats	5.4	4.6	5.2	4.6	6.4	4.3
Total carcass meat	128.8	137.3	133.3	137.9	141.6	138.5
Variety meats	5.0	5.3	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.6
Poultry	21.1	25.9	26.6	30.4	27.8	31.4
Total meat and poultry	154.9	168.5	164.7	173.3	174.3	174.5

CANADA LIFTS IMPORT BAN ON U.K. SHEEP

Canada has lifted the 1954 embargo on sheep imported from the United Kingdom. However, rigid controls have been put into force to avoid the introduction of scrapie disease.

Import requirements include a permit from the Canadian Health of Animals Division, and a health certificate from the British Ministry of Agriculture insuring that the animal is 42 months of age and has been inspected and found free of any contagious diseases.

Assurance must also be given that there were no cases of scrapie on the farm where the animal was raised in the 42 months prior to exportation. Scrapie normally develops during the first 42 months of the sheep's life.

Sheep must be kept in quarantine for 14 days prior to shipment from the United Kingdom and for 30 days after arrival in Canada. Upon completion of the quarantine period they must be moved to and kept on approved premises until the first progeny reach 42 months of age. Should scrapie develop during this period all sheep on the approved premises and their progency must be destroyed.

WEST GERMAN FROZEN FOOD
SALES INCREASING SHARPLY

Per capita consumption of frozen foods in West Germany has increased from 0.2 kilograms in 1957 to 1.8 kilograms in 1961. It is anticipated that consumption will continue to expand. A growing number of West German households now have refrigerators with freezer compartments; and facilities for handling frozen foods in grocery stores and supermarkets are increasing.

The following table shows the major types of frozen food products imported into Germany during 1960-61, with frozen poultry far in the lead as the major item.

FROZEN FOODS: West German sales, 1960 and 1961

Commodity	1960		1961	
	Metric tons	Percent	Metric tons	Percent
Poultry	25,000	48.1	1/ 65,000	60.0
Fruit and vegetables	14,000	26.9	2/ 24,600	22.7
Fish	5,100	9.8	3/ 8,250	7.6
Ice cream 4/	2,800	5.4	5,000	4.6
Meat and game	3,100	6.0	3,000	2.8
Potato products	1,000	1.9	1,000	0.9
Dinners	---	---	900	0.8
Doughs	1,000	1.9	150	0.1
Milk products 5/	---	---	500	0.5
Total	52,000	100.0	108,400	100.0

1/ 80 percent imported. 2/ 4,480 metric tons imported. 3/ 900 metric tons imported. 4/ Sales in grocery stores only. 5/ Frozen milk and frozen cream.

ARGENTINA SHIPS LESS
BUTTER, MORE CHEESE

Argentina's exports of butter in 1961 declined sharply to 26 million pounds from the high level of 54 million pounds in 1960. The United Kingdom continued to be by far the largest market, taking 78 percent of total exports. The remainder of 1961 shipments went mostly to Chile, Peru and Italy.

Cheese sales rose from 7 million pounds in 1960 to 9 million pounds in 1961. Heavier purchases by Venezuela (4 million pounds compared with 3 million pounds last year), and by the United States (3 million pounds compared with 2 million pounds), accounted for most of the increase.

Argentina is the principal exporter of casein. During 1961, exports were 65 million pounds, down 17 percent from the preceding year. The United States continued to be the largest single outlet, but sales to this market decreased to 38 million pounds compared with 49 million pounds in 1960, accounting for most of the decline in total exports. Sales to several other important markets also declined, among them the United Kingdom, West Germany, Belgium, and Japan. Purchases by Italy increased from 2 million pounds to 8 million. Exports to the Netherlands also showed a slight increase.

CANADIAN FARM INCOME
DROPS SHARPLY IN 1961.

Total farm net income, including changes in inventory of grains and livestock, is estimated at $C1,006.0 million for 1961 compared with $C1,319.6 last year and the lowest net income since 1945.

Farm operating expenses continued to rise in 1961, but most of the decline in net income from 1960 can be attributed to the sharp reduction of grain production in the Prairie Provinces and the subsequent drop in the year-end inventories of grain stored on farms. In addition, reduced returns from the sale of potatoes in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and the reduction of livestock numbers, especially in the Prairie Provinces, were also responsible for part of the decline.

Cash farm income, on the other hand, reached an alltime high of $C2,928.9 million in 1961, 2.4 percent above the previous record high of $C2,859.1 million in 1952 and 5.3 percent higher than the last year. This record level of cash farm income is primarily the result of above average exports of wheat, oats, barley, rye, and flaxseed so far this crop year, (August 1, 1961 to March 31, 1962). Along with generally low grain production in 1961, the Canadian Wheat Board has been able to remove all grain marketing quotas, thereby enabling grain producers to market all of the grain they desire. Also, the prices received for cattle last fall, many of which were sold because of the drought were maintained.

DROUGHT AFFECTS CHILEAN CROPS

Warm, dry weather, continuing throughout Southern Chile since October of last year, has resulted in production losses approaching $40 million.

The important agricultural area affected extends from Arauco Province, near Concepcion, southward through Llanquihue. Wheat is the most important crop affected. With losses estimated at 100,000 metric tons, import requirements for wheat are expected to be 400,000 metric tons for 1962. Estimated losses of 20,000 metric tons will not create a shortage of food potatoes but will reduce their use for feed. Other crops affected include oats, rapeseed, sugar beets, and barley. Loss in production of meat, dairy, and other livestock products may be even more serious.

The Chilean Government has authorized emergency assistance for farmers in the drought affected region. These measures include (1) expanded bank credit on favorable terms; (2) special rebates on seed, fertilizers, other farm supplies, and transportation services; special provisions for feed supplies and for transport of cattle from the drought area.

VENEZUELA ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN IMPORT REGULATIONS

Effective April 2, the Venezuelan Government decreed that many items previously permitted entry at the controlled rate of 3.35 bolivars per U.S. dollar will have to be imported at the free market rate. On April 4 the free market rate was 4.54 bolivars per dollar.

Agricultural items removed from the controlled list which used the 3.35 bolivars rate include: live animals imported chiefly for food; fresh, chilled, smoked or frozen beef and lamb; dried, smoked or cooked meats and sausages; cheese, and eggs (except fertile). Also removed were peanuts, linseed, animal oils, fats and greases, and many others.

MEXICAN WINTER VEGETABLE SHIPMENTS

The following winter vegetable and fruit shipments from the West Coast of Mexico crossed the border at Nogales, Arizona during the period April 1 to April 15, 1962, (in thousands of pounds, comparable data for last year's shipments are not available): cantaloupes 213; green corn 48; cucumbers 608; eggplant 227; garlic 1; onions 864; peas 2; green peppers 1,347; squash 48; snap beans 729; tomatoes 33,666; watermelons 1,412; and strawberries 2.

CANNED FRUIT AND JUICE PRICES
IN HAMBURG COMPARED

Hamburg, Germany importers' selling prices (import duties and customs charges paid) of selected canned fruits and canned juices in October 1961, January 1962, and April 1962 are compared as follows:

Type and quality	Units per doz.	Hamburg price Oct. 1961	Hamburg price Jan. 1962	Hamburg price Apr. 1962	Origin
	cans	U. S. dollars			
CANNED FRUIT					
Apricots					
Halves, choice	No. 2½	3.90	3.90	3.99	Australia
Halves, choice	No. 2½	3.87	3.87	3.65	United States
Halves, choice	No. 303	1/	1/	2.06	Bulgaria
Halves, choice	No. 303	2.12	2.08	2.10	Spain
Peaches					
Halves, choice	No. 2½	3.92	3.90	4.06	United States
Halves, choice	No.1 tall	1/	1/	2.08	Spain
Halves, choice	No. 10	15.00	1/	15.00	United States
Slices, choice	No. 2½	3.57	3.54	3.69	United States
Pears					
Choice	No. 2½	4.83	4.81	4.85	Italy
Choice	No. 2½	4.28	4.42	4.33	Netherlands
Choice	400 grams	1/	1/	2.33	Argentina
Fruit Cocktail					
Fancy	No. 303	3.51	3.36	3.27	United States
Choice	No. 2½	5.00	4.81	4.75	United States
Choice	No. 10	19.35	19.35	19.35	United States
Pineapple					
Slices, fancy	No. 2½	5.31	5.13	5.12	United States
Slices, choice	No. 2½	1/	3.78	3.72	Philippines
Slices, choice	No. 2½	3.54	3.54	3.57	South Africa
Slices, choice	No. 2½	1/	3.63	3.72	Mexico
Slices, choice	No. 2	2.58	2.59	2.61	Taiwan
Slices, choice	No. 2	1/	2.85	2.79	United States
Slices, choice	No.1 tall	2.22	2.18	2.25	Malaya
Broken pieces, choice	No. 2	2.22	2.19	2.24	Taiwan
Broken pieces, choice	No.1 tall	1.92	1.91	1.90	South Africa
Broken pieces, choice	No. 2½	1/	1/	3.39	South Africa
Broken pieces, choice	No. 2½	1/	1/	3.36	Kenya
Crushed, fancy	No. 10	12.06	12.06	11.94	United States
Crushed, choice	No. 10	2/10.74	2/9.69	9.39	Taiwan
Crushed 2/	No. 10	9.99	9.03	9.33	South Africa
CANNED JUICE					
Orange juice					
Unsweetened	No. 2	2.00	1.94-2.03	1.98	Israel
Unsweetened	No. 2	1/	1.99	1.97	United States
Unsweetened	46 oz.	5.12	4.90-5.52	4.38	United States
Grapefruit juice					
Unsweetened, choice	No. 2	1.52	1.42	1.45	United States
Unsweetened, choice	46 oz.	3.51	3.39	3.33	United States
Unsweetened, choice	No. 10	1/		5.94	United States
Pineapple juice					
Fancy	No. 10	8.64	8.49-8.64	8.64	United States
Fancy	No. 2	1.78	1.72	1.72	United States
Choice	No. 2	1/	1.60	1.60	South Africa

1/ Not available. 2/ Quality not specified.

CANNED FRUIT AND JUICE PRICES
IN LONDON COMPARED

London prices--landed,duty paid--of canned fruits and canned juices in October 1961, January 1962, and April 1962 are compared as follows:

Type and quality	Units per doz.	London price Oct.1961	Jan.1962	Apr.1962	Origin
	cans	U. S. dollars			
CANNED FRUIT					
Apricots					
Whole, choice, unp.	No. 303	1/	2.06	2.20	United States
Halves, choice	No. 2½	1/	3.85	4.13	United States
Halves, choice	No. 2½	3.50	3.50	3.50	South Africa
Halves, standard	No. 2½	3.43	3.29	3.38-3.52	South Africa
Halves, standard	No. 2½	3.36	3.28	3.50	Australia
Halves, in water	5 kilo 2/	12.46	12.46	14.49	Spain
Peaches, clingstones					
Halves, choice	No. 2½	1/	3.50	3.32	Australia
Halves, choice	No. 2½	3.50	3.50	3.58	South Africa
Halves, choice	No. 2½	1/	3.45	3.55	United States
Halves, standard	No. 2½	3.32	3.29	3.11	Australia
Halves, standard	No. 2½	3.22	3.29	3.36	South Africa
Halves, standard	No. 2½	1/	3.29	3.40	United States
Halves, standard	No. 1	2.06	2.00	1.97	Australia
Halves, standard	No. 1	2.08	2.00	2.12	South Africa
Halves, in sirup	14 oz.	1/	1.96	1.86	Spain
Pears					
Halves, choice	No. 2½	1/	4.13	3.80	Australia
Halves, choice	No. 2½	1/	3.68	3.80	South Africa
Halves, choice	No. 2½	1/	4.43	1/	United States
Halves, standard	No. 2½	3.60	3.57	3.65	South Africa
Halves, standard	No. 1	2.24	2.24	2.22	Australia
Halves, in sirup	15½ oz.	2.06	2.12	1/	Italy
Fruit Cocktail					
Choice	No. 303	1/	2.48	2.48	United States
Choice	14 oz.	2.31	2.31	1/	Spain
Choice	8 oz.	1/	1.46	1.46	United States
Grapefruit sections					
Fancy	No. 303	1/	2.08	2.12	United States
No. 2	20 oz.	1/	1/	2.80	Israel
2/	20 oz.	1/	2.66	2.73	British W. Indies
Pineapple					
Slices, fancy	No. 2	1/	1/	3.57	United States
Slices, standard, spiral 3/	20 oz.	1/	1/	1.89	Malaya
Slices, standard, spiral 3/	16 oz.	1/	1/	1.64	Malaya
CANNED JUICES					
Single strength					
Orange juice	No. 2	1/	1.75	1.68	United States
Orange juice	No. 2	1/	1/	1.68	British W. Indies
Orange juice	19 oz.	1/	1/	1.68	Israel
Orange juice	46 oz.	1/	1/	4.06	British W. Indies
Orange juice	46 oz.	1/	4.11	3.85	United States
Grapefruit juice	No. 2	1/	1.38	1.31	United States
Grapefruit juice	No. 2	1/	1.75	1.47	British W. Indies
Grapefruit juice	46 oz.	1/	1/	3.29	British W. Indies

1/ Not quoted. 2/ Per case of 10 cans. 3/ G.A.Q.

COMMON MARKET SETS RANGE FOR GRAIN TARGET PRICES

The European Common Market, (France, West Germany, Italy, and the Benelux countries) has set the upper and lower limits for wheat, barley, and rye target prices and the lower limit for corn target prices. They will be effective at the wholesale level for the marketing year beginning July 1, 1962. The range is as follows:

GRAIN: Common Market target prices (wholesale level) for 1962-63 marketing year

Commodity	Target price (wholesale level)	
	U.S. dollars per m.t.	U.S. dollars per bushel
Wheat:		
Maximum	118.92	3.24
Minimum	89.43	2.43
Rye:		
Maximum	108.17	2.75
Minimum	65.71	1.67
Barley:		
Maximum	103.07	2.24
Minimum	71.42	1.56
Corn:		
Minimum	62.40	1.59

Common Market members are free to set their prices within the above range. West Germany, which has the Market's highest grain prices, has set its target prices at the maximum levels. France, which has the lowest grain prices, has set its target prices at the minimum levels. Target prices in Italy and the Benelux countries will be set between the two extremes.

The target prices set in each country will be at the wholesale level in a designated marketing area. Derived target prices will be set at lower levels for outlying areas. The difference between these and the target prices will be the cost of freight to the designated target area.

The maximum target prices listed above will be effective at the wholesale level in the Duisburg area, West Germany's largest grain deficit center. These prices will represent a $7\frac{1}{2}$ percent increase over last years wholesale prices in Duisburg. This was the maximum allowable increase permitted under the Common Market Grain Regulations. (These regulations are available upon request from the Foreign Agricultural Service.)

The minimum target prices will be effective in France's largest grain surplus producing area which is centered to the northeast of Paris. These prices represent a 5 percent increase over last year's wholesale prices in that area. The target prices for Italy and the Benelux countries will show little if any difference in relation to last year's wholesale prices.

Variable import levies will equalize the price of imported grains with domestic prices. The new system of target prices and variable import levies thoroughly insulates producers and domestic markets in the Common Market from world prices, thus providing the utmost protection. Intervention (support) prices will underly the target prices in each country. At the intervention price level the appropriate government agency in each member country will purchase grain from farmers. Intervention prices must be set at from 5 to 10 percent below the target prices in each member country.

It is the objective of the Common Market's grain policy to draw the presently farflung target prices in each member country to a uniform level at a single point within the market. The range of target prices listed above were supposed to represent a standstill in the Market's prices for the marketing year beginning July 1, 1962. The actual harmonization of prices will begin with the 1963-64 marketing year. Uniform grain target prices are scheduled for January 1, 1970. These prices will be determined through a bargaining process among the member countries in which France, the Netherlands, Italy, and Belgium will seek a moderate price level while West Germany is expected to continue to press for high prices.

COSTA RICA
NEEDS BEANS

The National Production Council of Costa Rica has announced that imports of 100,000 bags of beans will be necessary to satisfy domestic consumption needs during 1962. They suggest 50 percent black beans and 50 percent red.

Costa Rica usually imports from Nicaragua and Honduras.

CHILE HAS SMALLER BEAN
AND LENTIL HARVESTS

Chile's 1962 bean harvest completed recently is estimated at 1.8 million bags, 8 percent below last year, according to unofficial estimates.

Acreage was off only 1 percent. Southern Provinces suffered from spring and summer drought. The 1962 Arroz bean crop is estimated at 220,000 bags.

Current prices are about 8 percent higher than a year ago and 18 percent above the 1960 crop. Current prices per cwt, f.o.b. port are: Red Kidney $8.20; Red Mexican $6.04; Cristales $7.12; and Arroz $6.90-7.12.

(Continued)

While Chilean bean exports rose in calendar year 1961 to 550,000, compared with 490,000 in 1960, exports to the United Kingdom decreased from 13,000 bags to 9,000. Exports to Cuba increased from 14,000 bags to 190,000.

The 1962 lentil crop is down 11 percent from the 1960 outturn of 375,000 bags.

Drought reduced the yield in Southern areas. Stocks carried over from the 1961 crop were estimated at 110,000 bags on April 1, 1962, compared with 65,000 bags a year previously. West Germany buys 80 percent of Chile's exported lentils.

Current prices, f.o.b. Valparaiso, are: 5 mm size $9.50 per cwt.; 6 mm size $13.80 per cwt.; 7 mm size $18.15 per cwt.

SOUTH AFRICA HARVESTING RECORD CORN CROP

The Republic of South Africa estimates the current corn harvest at 202 million bushels. This is an alltime high, exceeding the previous record in 1960-61 by 8 percent.

A heavy carryover added to the record outturn this season, brings surplus above local consumption requirements to about 135 million bushels. Some 80-90 million bushels are expected to be exported during the 1962-63 marketing season. If that level of exports is achieved, the carryover at the end of April, 1963 will be normal, probably 45-55 million bushels.

MOROCCO REPORTS GOOD GRAIN PROSPECTS

The present outlook is for near-normal grain crops in Morocco this year, after the poor crops of the past two seasons.

Preliminary information indicates that the durum crop will cover the country's needs, with a surplus for export. Barley production is expected to fill normal requirements also. Barley acreage seeded with imported seed stock of American and Turkish varieties shows above-average yield prospects.

The outlook for soft wheat is less favorable and there will be imports of this class of wheat for commercial baking.

A severe year-long drought was broken in March. Rains were general throughout all major grain production areas of the country. Excellent weather for planting spring crops was followed by additional rains, which were timely both to benefit winter grains and for germination of the newly planted summer crops.

THAI RICE EXPORT PRICES
CONTINUE TO ADVANCE

Thailand's export prices of rice continued to advance sharply in the first week of May.

Prices are the highest since December 1954. The recent increase is attributed to weak supplies from up country.

The May 4 price of white rice, 100-percent first grade, to commercial exporters was U.S. $8.23 per cwt. It was 26 cents higher than a week earlier, 70 cents above 2 weeks before, and $1.51 more than on May 1, 1961.

These prices apply to commercial transactions only. The government-to-government fixed price for the above quoted grade is $6.84 per cwt.

By the beginning of 1962, Thailand had signed contracts with four countries--Indonesia, Ceylon, Taiwan, and Japan--to export a total of 701,000 metric tons of milled rice. The target for exports in 1962 was set at 1,400,000 tons.

RICE: Thai export prices, f.o.b. Bangkok, 1/
May 4 with comparisons

Grade	1961	1962		
	May 1	April 23	April 30	May 4
	U.S. Dollars per cwt.	U.S. Dollars per cwt.	U.S. Dollars per cwt.	U.S. Dollars per cwt.
White rice, 100-percent, first-grade	6.72	7.53	7.97	8.23
White rice, 100-percent, second-grade	6.53	7.40	7.84	8.04
White rice, 5-percent broken	6.15	7.15	7.40	7.59
White rice, 10-percent broken	5.96	7.02	7.30	7.50
White rice, A-1 super	4.28	5.55	5.74	5.87
Cargo, 100-percent, first-grade	5.58	6.96	---	7.21

1/ Milled rice. Includes export premium, export tax, and cost of bags. Packed in bags of 100 kilograms (220.46 pounds) net.

INDIA PRODUCES NEAR RECORD
RICE CROP IN 1961-62

India's rice production in 1961-62 was almost as large as the record crop of 1960-61, according to the All-India final estimate of April 12.

Rice acreage increased slightly. Substantial gains in some states were offset by significant declines in West Bengal, Bihar, and Kerala States due to unfavorable weather at sowing time. In West Bengal, a decrease of 4 percent was also reported to be due to diversion to jute.

The production declines were mainly in West Bengal and Bihar, where output was 2,152 and 824 million pounds of rough rice, respectively, (650,000 and 249,000 metric tons in terms of milled), below last year's production.

RICE: India's final estimate of acreage and production in 5 leading states, and total, 1961-62, with corresponding estimates for 1960-61

State	1960-61			1961-62		
	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds
Bihar:						
Autumn crop	1,103	652	719.7	995	591	588.5
Winter crop	11,834	1,209	14,312.9	11,606	1,174	13,620.2
Summer crop	7	957	6.7	7	957	6.7
Total	12,944	1,162	15,039.3	12,608	1,127	14,215.4
Madya Pradesh:						
Autumn crop	10,230	1,119	11,440.9	10,309	1,118	11,528.4
Orissa:						
Autumn crop	946	796	753.3	1,188	733	871.0
Winter crop	8,357	1,383	11,558.6	8,807	1,291	11,370.3
Summer crop	47	645	30.3	47	645	30.3
Total	9,350	1,320	12,342.2	10,042	1,222	12,271.6
Uttar Pradesh:						
Winter crop	10,324	1,009	10,415.2	10,346	1,079	11,165.2
Summer crop	16	837	13.4	16	838	13.4
Total	10,340	1,009	10,428.6	10,362	1,079	11,178.6
West Bengal:						
Autumn crop	1,571	1,090	1,711.8	1,292	1,018	1,314.9
Winter crop	9,726	1,667	16,216.4	9,560	1,513	14,460.8
Summer crop	82	1,517	124.4	82	1,517	124.4
Total	11,379	1,586	18,052.6	10,934	1,454	15,900.3
India:						
Autumn crop	28,793	1,296	37,322.6	29,039	1,334	38,738.4
Winter crop	52,669	1,395	73,491.6	53,112	1,353	71,847.1
Summer crop	1,485	1,601	2,377.7	1,518	1,611	2,444.9
Total	82,947	1,365	113,191.9	83,669	1,351	113,030.4

All India Final Estimate of Rice, 1961-62, April 12, 1962.

SUEZ CANAL OILSEED SHIPMENTS
CONTINUE AT REDUCED VOLUME

The volume of oilseed shipments through the Suez Canal in March 1962, although above that of February 1962 (Foreign Crops and Markets, April 9, 1962), was 3 percent less than the quantity shipped in March 1961.

Total shipments of all oil-bearing material through March 1962 of the U.S. marketing year beginning October 1, 1961, were 8 percent smaller in volume than shipments during the comparable period of the previous marketing year.

Apart from soybeans, exports of copra were substantially smaller than in the 6-month period a year earlier. However, there were substantial gains in the tonnages of peanuts, cottonseed, and flaxseed while the combined volume of the remaining items was essentially equal to that of a year earlier.

OILSEEDS: Suez Canal, northbound shipments by kind, March 1961 and 1962, and October-March 1960-61 and 1961-62

Item	March		October-March	
	1961	1962	1960-61	1961-62
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
Soybeans 1/	26,000	17,060	190,000	136,094
Copra	49,000	47,151	397,000	322,097
Peanuts	14,000	17,123	68,000	102,589
Cottonseed	18,000	13,599	46,000	57,235
Flaxseed 2/	3,000	5,053	8,000	22,638
Castor beans	)	1,468)		16,781
Palm nuts and kernels	) 16,000	1,963)	111,000	18,883
Others	)	18,825)		75,672
Total	126,000	122,242	820,000	751,989

1/ 1 metric ton of soybeans equals 36.743333 bushels.
2/ 1 metric ton of flaxseed equals 39.367857 bushels.

Suez Canal Authority, (Cairo, Egypt).

The volume of soybean shipments (presumed to be Chinese) through the Canal during the second quarter of the current marketing year was well above that of the first quarter but substantially less than that of the second quarter of the previous marketing year.

(Continued)

Total shipments of soybeans from October through March of the current marketing year are running below the volume in the comparable period of the marketing years beginning October 1, 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1960.

SOYBEANS: Suez Canal, northbound shipments, January, February, March, and quarterly totals, 1957-61

Month and Quarter	Year beginning October 1				
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
January	514	2,572	4,483	3,711	2,907
February	1,764	4,446	4,850	1,396	548
March	3,050	3,417	4,666	955	627
October-December	1,029	4,189	8,598	919	919
January-March	5,328	10,435	13,999	6,062	4,082
April-June	3,674	9,700	8,635	1,213	---
July-September	7,275	5,879	2,756	2,776	---
October-September	17,306	30,203	33,988	10,970	

Total computed from unrounded numbers.
Suez Canal Authority, (Cairo, Egypt).

MALAYAN EXPORTS OF PALM OIL AND PALM KERNELS DECLINE

Exports of palm oil from the Federation of Malaya and Singapore, totalled 71,173 short tons during January-September 1961--one tenth less than in the corresponding period of 1960. Shipments to Canada were up sharply in 1961 but this gain was more than offset by reduced exports to the United Kingdom and India.

Palm kernel exports were down to 16,921 tons in January-September 1961 from 20,925 tons in the 1960 period. This 19-percent reduction was due mostly to the decline in shipments to Japan and the United Kingdom.

PALM OIL AND PALM KERNELS: Federation of Malaya, and Singapore, exports by country of destination, annual and January-September 1960 and 1961

Continent and country of destination	Palm oil			Palm kernels		
	1960 1/	January-September		1960 1/	January-September	
		1960 1/	1961 1/		1960 1/	1961 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America:						
Canada	10,124	5,541	18,489	---	---	---
Europe:						
Belgium	908	905	---	---	---	---
Denmark	---	---	---	1,008	1,008	640
France	---	---	---	---	---	---
Germany, West	---	---	---	2,184	1,762	2,125
Greece	---	---	---	1,348	846	1,064
Netherlands	565	---	---	3,125	2,042	1,434
United Kingdom	42,170	32,915	21,047	5,854	4,398	3,251
Other	2/731	720	---	3/334	334	---
Total	44,374	34,540	21,047	13,853	10,390	8,514
Africa	397	397	448	---	---	---
Asia:						
India	31,436	24,763	15,463	---	---	---
Iraq	17,587	12,436	12,075	---	---	---
Japan	336	56	45	13,513	10,534	8,316
Philippines	318	318	---	---	---	---
Other	4/1,451	5/991	1,293	6/225	1	91
Total	51,128	38,564	28,876	13,738	10,535	8,407
Oceania	7/859	7/375	7/1,925	---	---	---
Grand total	106,882	79,417	8/71,173	27,591	20,925	16,921

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes 641 tons to Sweden. 3/ All to Spain. 4/ Includes 1,352 tons to Jordan. 5/ Includes 806 tons to Jordan. 6/ All to China, Mainland. 7/ All to Australia. 8/ Includes 388 tons to Peru.

Compiled from official sources.

ARGENTINE EDIBLE OIL SUPPLY
LARGE; EXPORTS MAY RISE

Argentina's edible vegetable oil production in 1962-63 is expected to approximate 355,000 short tons, or 10 percent more than a year earlier. With little change expected in domestic consumption or stocks, exportable supplies are estimated at 115,000 tons, or one-third more than last year.

EDIBLE VEGETABLE OILS: Argentine supply and distribution, years beginning April 1, 1960, 1961 and forecast 1962

Item	1960	1961	1962 1/
	1,000 short tons		
Supply:			
Stocks, April 1	37.5	35.0	36.4
Production:			
Sunflower	228.2	203.9	220.5
Peanut	65.2	82.7	93.7
Cotton seed	16.3	22.1	18.7
Olive	11.9	5.5	11.0
Other 2/	8.7	9.9	11.0
Total production	330.3	324.1	354.9
Total supply	367.8	359.1	391.3
Distribution:			
Exports:			
Sunflower	23.9	38.6	44.1
Peanut	58.0	44.1	60.6
Cottonseed	5.0	3.3	4.4
Olive	10.9	.5	5.5
Other	---	---	---
Total exports	97.8	86.5	114.6
Domestic disappearance	235.0	236.2	232.6
Ending stocks, March 31	35.0	36.4	44.1
Total distribution	367.8	359.1	391.3

1/ Forecast. 2/ Includes rapeseed, grapeseed, corn and other vegetable oils.
Compiled from official and other sources.

No official estimates of the 1961-62 edible oilseed crops are available as yet. However, according to the third official estimates, the area planted to sunflower seed was up 17 percent from a year earlier, bringing it to 3,237,000 acres, and the area in peanuts increased 37 percent to 679,525 acres. Trade estimates of the 1961-62 sunflower seed crop range from 716,500 to 881,800 tons. While there was damage from drought in some areas, the crop is expected to be about 827,000 tons compared with 645,000 tons last year.

Peanut production should be at least 330,000 tons, the largest in recent years. As the crop has been damaged slightly by hail and heavy rains, average yields probably will not reach last year's high level. Production in 1960-61 was 293,000 tons.

Total supplies of edible oils will increase substantially as this season's harvest moves into crushing mills. Therefore, it would appear likely that exports will rise in the second half of 1962 and early 1963.

Argentina's annual consumption of edible vegetable oils apparently is about 237,000 tons, or about 23.7 pounds per person. Use of lard and edible tallow is small, probably not more than 2.2 pounds per person. Butter consumption was about 4.4 pounds per capita in 1961.

Argentine farmers reportedly have become increasingly discouraged by the susceptibility of sunflowers to a number of diseases for which there is no known effective treatment. Because of this, growers may try alternative oilseed crops, such as soybeans.

NIGERIAN PEANUT PURCHASES VIRTUALLY COMPLETED

Peanut purchases by the Nigerian Produce Market Board from Nigeria's 1961 peanut crop totaled 679,171 long tons, shelled basis, by April 12, 1962. This is 4,000 tons more than purchases were expected to be (Foreign Crops and Markets, April 9, 1962) and represents virtually the total for the season. By the comparable date last year, purchases were 617,572 tons, and total purchases for the season were 619,051 tons.

Deliveries to oil mills as of April 12 were 77,602 tons against 54,111 a year earlier.

DENMARK'S OILSEED, OILCAKE, AND MEAL IMPORTS DECLINE

Denmark's 1961 imports of oil-bearing materials totaling 405,800 short tons were down 17 percent from the previous year. Imports of oilcakes and meals at 778,300 tons declined by only 1 percent.

Soybean imports, which in 1961 comprised about four-fifths of the Danish oilseed imports, declined by 17 percent from the previous year. This decline resulted from higher soybean prices, sharp increases in domestic oilseed production, and a new marketing act which requires the margarine industry to absorb rapeseed corresponding to 10 percent of the industry requirements. Most of the decrease was in imports from China which despite food shortages, has continued to supply soybeans to Denmark. The United States in 1961 supplied about 70 percent of the market even though Danish harbor limitations prevented importers from taking advantage of lower freight costs on large shipments from the United States.

(Continued)

SOYBEAN, COTTONSEED, AND TOTAL OILCAKES AND MEALS: Denmark, supply and distribution, annual 1960 and 1961

Item	Soybean cake and meal		Cottonseed cake and meal		Total oilcakes and meal 1/	
	1960	1961	1960	1961	1960	1961
	1,000 short tons					
Supply:						
Stocks, January 1	20.9	19.4	53.5	41.7	116.0	99.6
Production	312.9	272.8	---	---	345.1	300.4
Imports	176.3	160.4	343.6	325.0	789.0	778.4
Total supply	510.1	452.6	397.1	366.7	1,250.1	1,178.4
Distribution:						
Exports	85.9	71.9	2.4	2.4	109.2	102.4
Feed	404.8	369.0	353.0	330.8	1,041.3	990.6
Stock, December 31	19.4	11.7	41.7	33.5	99.6	85.4
Total Distribution	510.1	452.6	397.1	366.7	1,250.1	1,178.4

1/ Including (soybean, cottonseed, sunflower, coconut, peanut, linseed, and other cakes and meals).

SOYBEANS AND TOTAL OILSEEDS: Denmark, supply and distribution, annual 1959-61

Item	Soybeans			Total oil-bearing materials		
	1959	1960	1961 1/	1959	1960	1961 1/
	1,000 short tons					
Supply:						
Stocks, January 1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	33.0	35.3	30.1
Production	---	---	---	23.2	30.9	45.9
Imports	317.5	403.2	332.8	401.8	486.6	405.7 2/
Total Supply	317.5	403.2	332.8	458.0	552.8	481.7
Distribution:						
Exports	---	---	---	16.8	24.2	49.7
Human consumption	---	---	---	1.5	1.4	1.4
Crushing	317.5	403.2	332.8	397.8	489.7	382.4
Feed, seed, and waste	---	---	---	6.6	7.4	6.4
Stocks, December 31	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	35.3	30.1	41.8
Total distribution	317.5	403.2	332.8	458.0	552.8	481.7

1/ Preliminary. 2/ In addition to soybeans includes copra, palm kernel, linseed, peanuts, sesame seed, and other oilseeds.

Danish imports of oilseed cakes and meals in 1961, comprised largely of soybean and cottonseed cakes and meals, were down slightly from the previous year. Expansion of pork and poultry production has helped to maintain the imports of soybean oil meal, despite low milk prices. However, imports of soybean and cottonseed cakes and meals in 1961 declined from the previous year by 9 percent and 6 percent, respectively. These declines were partially offset by increased imports of fish, peanut, and coconut cakes and meals.

ANTARCTIC WHALE
OIL OUTPUT DOWN

The production of whale oil in the 1961-62 Antarctic whaling season, provisionally estimated at 346,000 short tons, was approximately 8 percent, or 31,700 tons lower than the 378,138 tons produced in 1960-61. The season which began December 12, 1961, ended April 7, 1962.

Only one land station, the British Grytviken-Husvik station, registered in the Falkland Islands, was in operation in South Georgia during the 1961-62 season. Production of whale oil fell by 15 percent from the previous season.

The countries engaged in the pelagic whaling operations in the Antarctic, with the exclusion of the U.S.S.R., have reported provisional production figures. Including an unofficial production estimate for the U.S.S.R. of 73,500 tons, a total of 337,900 tons of whale oil was produced during the full 1961-62 pelagic whaling season, off 20,877 tons from the previous season.

The 1961-62 pelagic season resulted in a total catch of 15,243 whales, in terms of the standard blue whale unit, a decline of 7.2 percent from the previous season's total of 16,433 whale units. In the following table, the actual catch figures are compared with pre-season maximum catches as stipulated by the countries engaged in pelagic whaling operations.

Participating nations	Blue whale units			
	Pre-season plan		Actually caught 1/	
	1960-61	1961-62	1960-61	1961-62
Norway	5,800	5,100	5,199.8	3,698
United Kingdom	1,800	1,800	1,456.2	1,069
Netherlands	1,200	1,200	1,011.0	614
Japan	5,980	6,680	5,979.9	6,575
U.S.S.R.	3,000	3,000	2,786.6	3,287
Total	17,780	17,780	2/16,433.5	15,243

1/ Provisional figures. 2/ Of this total 16,386.6 units were processed and 46.9 units lost.

(Continued)

The total number of blue whale units caught by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Norwegian expeditions falls far short of their stipulated maximum quotas. Japan almost reached its quota, while the U.S.S.R. exceeded its quota by 287 units.

Taking into account the 30 percent decline in the price of whale oils, (about $50 per short ton), in the course of the last 12 months, the 1961-62 Antarctic whaling operations for the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Norway were relatively unsuccessful.

WHALE OIL: Antarctic production 1960-61 and 1961-62

Participating Nations	1960-61	1961-62 1/
	Short tons	
Pelagic whaling:		
Norway	125,311	93,455
United Kingdom	35,270	27,716
Netherlands	24,272	13,614
Japan	111,596	129,615
U.S.S.R.	62,328	2/ 73,500
Total	358,777	337,900
South Georgia:		
United Kingdom		
Grytviken-Husvik harbor	10,062	8,500
Leith harbor	9,299	---
Total	19,361	8,500
Total Antarctic	378,138	346,400

1/ Provisional figures.
2/ U.S.S.R. production figure has not yet been disclosed; this figure is an estimate based on blue whale units.

CANADIAN VEGETABLE OIL PLANT OPENS

A new vegetable oil plant opened at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada on April 27. The plant will manufacture vegetable oil products such as cooking oil, mayonnaise, salad dressing, tartar sauce, and a table spread which is a butter substitute.

The basis for most of the products to be manufactured is rapeseed oil which is obtained from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool oil mill located in Saskatoon. The market for the oil products is expected to be in the four western provinces.

The plant is reported to have cost $195,000 and will employ 20 people.

INDONESIAN EXPORTS OF COPRA, PALM OIL AND PALM KERNELS DROP IN JANUARY

Indonesia's registered exports of copra were sharply lower in January 1962.

Only 2,303 long tons were shipped in that month as compared to 42,503 tons in December 1961 and 3,918 in January 1961. The total registered copra exports during 1961 was 232,099 tons. January 1962 exports went to the following destinations in the quantities indicated: Penang 1,189 tons, and Singapore 1,114 tons.

Registered palm oil exports declined in January 1962 to 7,493 short tons from 8,716 tons exported in December 1961. Palm oil exports in January 1961 were 6,853 tons, and the total for the entire 1961 was 151,741 tons.

Indonesia's palm kernel exports were also down in January 1962 to 1,877 short tons whereas 3,026 tons were shipped in December 1961 and 2,767 tons in January 1961. The total of palm kernel exports in 1961 was 36,003 tons.

FINLAND IMPORTS AND USES LESS COTTON

Activity in the Finnish cotton industry in the first 7 months (August-February) of the current season was somewhat below 1960-61. Partly because of record high cotton stocks at the beginning of this season, it now appears likely that imports during the full 1961-62 season will fall considerably below last season and that mill consumption will show some decrease.

Consumption of 47,000 bales (500 pounds gross) of cotton in the first 7 months of this season was within 2,000 bales of the quantity used in the same 1960-61 period. The slightly lower rate reflects a considerable earlier buildup of fabric inventories at mills. However, consumer purchases of cotton goods are continuing relatively strong, and mill order books are reportedly in a good position. United States cotton accounted for over one-third of total consumption during the period under review, while Russian cotton accounted for most of the balance.

Cotton imports into Finland during August-February, at 45,000 bales, were 12 percent below the 51,000 received in the comparable period of 1960-61. The bulk of Finland's cotton requirements is supplied by the U.S.S.R. under a trade agreement, and the U.S. under Public Law 480 arrangements. In some seasons, small quantities of cotton are obtained from Egypt, Peru, Mexico, and several other countries.

Imports from the U.S.S.R. during August-February amounted to 24,000 bales, compared with 27,000 in the same months a year earlier, while receipts from the United States totaled 20,000 bales, against 23,000 in August-February 1960-61.

Ending stocks this season are expected to decline somewhat from the record high 62,000 bales on hand August 1, 1961. Included in this season's beginning stocks were around 23,000 bales of Russian cotton which is in the government stockpile.

SYRIAN COTTON
CROP LARGER

The 1961-62 cotton crop in Syria is now estimated at a record 555,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This is 9 percent larger than the 511,000 bales grown last season, and one-fifth larger than annual average production of 464,000 in the past 5 seasons.

This season's larger crop may be attributed to increased acreage, and yields considerably higher than average as a result of favorable weather. Acreage harvested in 1961-62 totaled around 616,000 acres, against 525,000 acres last season. Of this, over 500,000 acres were irrigated, compared with about 435,000 in the previous season.

Exports of 347,000 bales of cotton from Syria during the first two-thirds (August-March) of the current season were 6 percent above the 326,000 bales shipped in the same months of 1960-61. Quantities exported to principal destinations from August 1961 through March 1962, with comparable 1960-61 figures in parentheses, were: France 61,000 bales (53,000); Bulgaria 57,000 (11,000); Communist China 29,000 (20,000); Czechoslovakia 28,000 (31,000); Rumania 26,000 (19,000); Portugal 25,000 (23,000); Poland 21,000 (0); Lebanon 19,000 (8,000); Italy 19,000 (20,000); West Germany 17,000 (25,000); and the U.S.S.R. 11,000 (19,000).

Takings by Communist countries increased substantially during the period under review, as Syria shipped 171,000 bales or nearly half of total exports to that group, compared with 101,000 bales, or less than one-third of the total in the same 1960-61 period.

In view of heavy shipments thus far from larger availabilities, total Syrian cotton exports this season may exceed by 5 to 10 percent the 445,000 bales shipped in 1960-61. Cotton consumption in Syria this season likely will be considerably above the 60,000 bales used in 1960-61, because of expansion in the local textile industry and strong domestic offtake. Ending stocks on July 31, 1962 may be somewhat larger than the 45,000 bales on hand last August 1.

Prices of Syrian cotton, although remaining competitive with other growths, have strengthened considerably this season on world import markets. On April 26, Syrian SM 1-1/16 inches cotton was quoted at 31.64 U.S. cents per pound, c.i.f. Liverpool, while M 1-1/16 inches was 30.46. Comparable quotations in early August 1961 were 30.33 and 29.17 cents, respectively.

CONGO COTTON PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO DROP

Cotton production in the Republic of the Congo, including Ruanda-Urundi, during the 1961-62 season is now estimated at 90,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This is 28 percent below the 125,000 bales grown in 1960-61, and less than one-third of the record 1959-60 crop of 275,000.

The decline in production may be attributed partly to more than a 50 percent drop in acreage this season from the average of 843,000 acres devoted to cotton during the 5 seasons prior to independence in June 1960. The drop in acreage and production is attributable to a breakdown in the marketing system and lack of effective local measures to continue the supply of good quality planting seed, insect and disease control, and other production and marketing services.

Cotton consumption this season in the Congo is expected to equal or exceed the 40,000 bales used in 1960-61. Consumption has held up well since independence, at least partly because of restrictions placed on imports of textiles. However, per capita consumption of cotton goods appears to be headed for a decline if import restrictions are continued and textile mill facilities are not increased. There is some evidence that consideration is being given to additional mills or expansion of existing plants. The substantial decline in both the quantity and quality of the Congolese crop, along with deterioration of the marketing system, may soon require local mills to import cotton.

In line with reduced availabilities, exports this season appear likely to drop to around one-half of the 120,000 bales shipped in 1960-61. Although most cotton exported from the Congo is shipped to Belgium, political conditions at present make estimates more difficult. It appears that stocks of cotton on hand at the end of the current season probably will be substantially below the estimated 60,000 bales held on August 1, 1961.

FROZEN STRAWBERRIES ARRIVE FROM MEXICO

A preliminary report on frozen strawberry imports from Mexico for the week ending May 5 shows 1.1 million pounds to the United States and .1 million pounds to Canada.

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